

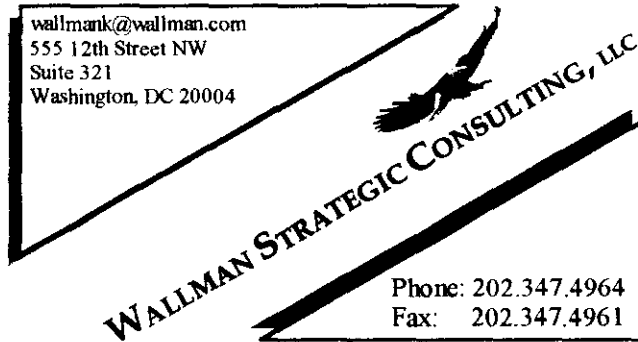
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535



September 8, 1999

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Ex Parte Filing
CC Docket No. 99-200

Dear Ms. Salas:

On September 7, 1999 Tina S. Pyle and Richard A. Karre of MediaOne Group and John E. Logan and Robert W. Spangler of Wallman Strategic Consulting, LLC met with Yog R. Varma, Deputy Chief of the Common Carrier Bureau, to discuss MediaOne's recommendations for expedited Commission action in the referenced proceeding. MediaOne described how its inability to obtain numbers in certain locations (identified in the one-page enclosure) has adversely affected its operations as a facilities-based provider of competitive local exchange service.

As described in the ten-page enclosure, which also was distributed at the meeting, MediaOne advocates that the Commission immediately enhance the utilization of number resources by:

- Expressly authorizing voluntary number porting;
- Ordering mandatory number porting in certain locations, and;
- Integrating mandatory number porting with code rationing plans.

Sincerely,

John E. Logan

Enclosures

cc: Yog R. Varma (w/o enclosures)

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Until Adequate Code Conservation Is A Reality, States Must Expediently Implement Area Code Relief

MediaOne's Immediate Dilemma		
State	NPA	Situation
CA	310/424	Implementation of an area code overlay in the 310 NPA has been delayed indefinitely. Because NXX codes in the 310 NPA are rapidly reaching exhaust, and the few numbers being assigned by lottery to carriers whose requests greatly exceed supply, the suspension of area code relief has required MediaOne to cease marketing to new areas. MediaOne is the only facilities-based competitive local exchange carrier offering residential service in Los Angeles County.
		In addition, legislation has been introduced in California that may require the development of an area code relief plan and a suspension of ten-digit dialing within an area code until completion of the study. One ILEC has suggested amending the legislation such that the overlay would be re-instituted but without mandatory ten-digit dialing.
MA	508	Four area codes are in jeopardy and are subject to lotteries. In NPAs 617 and 508, the lottery assigns six codes per month; in NPA 781, the lottery assigns eight codes per month; and in NPA 978, ten codes per month are assigned. According to the lottery rules, if more companies request codes than are available in a particular area code in a particular month, the remaining companies that requested codes are placed on a priority list. MediaOne has participated in these lotteries since their inception and has been able, up to this point in time, to acquire the numbers needed to provide service as its network is upgraded. However, because of the significant demand for numbers in certain NPAs, MediaOne's ability to serve additional communities is severely limited.
	617	
	781	
	978	
NH	603	According to the NHPUC, if conservation efforts cannot be implemented in time or do not save sufficient numbers, then the NHPUC will implement an area code overlay -- <u>but only under two conditions</u> . The first condition is unassigned number porting (UNP). LECs must work with the PUC Staff to develop UNP so that it is available within 6 months of the PUC's order. The second condition is the effective date of the overlay -- it will be 90 days <u>after</u> the last NXX code has been assigned or 24 months from the PUC's order -- whichever date is later.
		In the meantime, only seven codes are distributed each month and MediaOne is unable to offer residential consumers a choice in their local telephone service.

Although MediaOne has upgraded its infrastructure to provide telephony to residential customers, it has been unable to obtain telephone numbers to make its services available to approximately 291,000 homes.

Media One Digital Telephone Services

Proposals for Immediate Action
on Numbering Resources

September, 1999

Number shortages have reached crisis proportions for MediaOne and other CLECs --

- MediaOne is ready to serve over 290,000 households in New England and California -- but we have no numbers to serve them.
- The states are increasingly resistant to NPA relief.
- Thousands-block pooling and ITN are months -- perhaps years -- away.

The Commission must take action now to ensure the better utilization of existing number resources.

If not, consumers will continue to be denied the benefits of local competition.

Three steps the FCC can take immediately to enhance the utilization of existing number resources:

1. Expressly authorize voluntary number porting.
2. Order mandatory number porting.
3. Integrate mandatory number porting with code rationing plans.

1. Permit LECs to share NXX codes by means of voluntary number porting.

- Nothing prohibits LECs from porting numbers to each other voluntarily.
- But absent the FCC's express authorization, LECs may be unwilling to engage in this practice.
- No downside.
- Requires no involvement by state or FCC.
- Would help bring about more equitable distribution and more efficient use of a public resource.
- Limited application (likely used only by affiliates or when LECs can reciprocate).
- Time to implement: immediately.

2. Order mandatory number porting.

- Enables LECs with no numbers to obtain them from LECs who have more numbers than they need.
- Implement at rate center level in NPAs with rationing or in jeopardy, and LNP is in place.
- Only LNP-capable wireline carriers eligible to donate or to receive.
- Would help bring about more equitable distribution and more efficient use of a public resource.
- Relatively few numbers involved.
- NANPA administers.
- Time to implement: probably less than 6 months.

Mandatory Number Porting - Details

Reporting of Number Utilization --

- In eligible NPAs, all LNP-compliant LECs report number utilization to NANPA; reports are confidential.
- Utilization defined as numbers in service or ported out, administrative numbers, aging numbers.
- Reserved numbers are not considered utilized.

Mandatory Number Porting - Details

Donor Eligibility --

- A portion of the numbers (e.g., 20%) in an NXX are reserved for future use by the LEC to whom the NXX was issued.
- All other numbers are available for porting unless already being utilized.
- If a LEC reaches a certain level of utilization in a rate center (e.g., 80%), it ceases to be eligible as a donor.

Mandatory Number Porting - Details

Recipient Eligibility --

- Able immediately to serve customers in the rate center.
- No available numbers.

Mandatory Number Porting - Details

Process --

- Each month, receiving LECs request enough numbers from donor LECs to fulfill their needs for the next month.
(Alternative: LECs request enough numbers to last a fixed period of time (e.g., 3 months), and then order more when they have used up a set portion (e.g., 2/3) of their inventory.)
- Donor LEC can choose which NXX to port from (if it has multiple NXXs).
- Administrator directs receiving LECs to request numbers from donors in proportion to available numbers.
- Each month, recipients report actual usage of ported numbers; reports are confidential. Administrator can limit porting requests if a recipient consistently over-orders.

3. Integrate Code Rationing with Voluntary and Mandatory Number Porting

BUT --

- Require that rationing plans grant a code to any LEC that is otherwise ready to serve customers in a rate center, but has no numbers and none are available under voluntary or mandatory number porting.
- Require states to set NPA relief dates that are at least 90 days before exhaust.